

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 17, 18, 20 and 22-26 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative on September 23, 2003.

Examiner's Interview Summary mailed October 1, 2003 accurately documents the Substance of Interview in that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 17, 18 and 22-24 was discussed, the Examiner acknowledged that these claims are fully enabled by the specification, and therefore, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the §112, first paragraph, rejection. Accordingly, **claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 20 and 22-26 are allowed**, and only claims 17 and 18 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of O'Brien (both previously cited).

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 103 rejection as follows.

The Examiner acknowledges that Yamazaki alone does not disclose, teach or suggest the requirements of Applicant's claims 17 and 18 and relies on O'Brian to supply this acknowledged deficiency.

As explained in Applicant's previous Amendment filed May 15, 2003, O'Brian's angle A is the angle between axis 32 of the extrusion slot 28 with respect to a reference line R extending perpendicularly to the surface of the web (see O'Brian, col. 3, lines 40-44), and has nothing to do with the "angle" as particularly defined in claim 17:

the extrusion coater is disposed on a surface of a first plane, and the support is disposed on a roller whose axis is located parallel to a direction in which the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is discharged, the axis being

disposed in a second plane that is located above the discharge opening at the tip of the extrusion coater and parallel to the first plane, such that an angle formed by, on the one hand, the direction of the shortest distance between the tip discharge opening and, on the other hand, the roller and the second plane is from 0 to 30°; or as particularly defined in claim 18:

wherein the extrusion coater is disposed on a surface of a first plane, and the support is disposed on a roller whose axis is located parallel to a direction in which the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is discharged, the axis being disposed in a second plane that is located above the discharge opening at the tip of the extrusion coater and parallel to the first plane, such that an angle formed by the direction in which the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is discharged and the second plane is from 5 to 60°

That is, O'Brian does not even recognize the significance of the angle as defined in claims 17 and 18, let alone suggest the specific ranges required by Applicant's claims 17 and 18.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Stan Torgovitsky
Registration No. 43,958

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 28, 2003